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THE "FAT-PRIEST FISH" IN CALIFORNIA.

This morning my son brought in from the market a few steaks sliced from the side of a very large fish, which had never come into our markets before.

The flavor is rich and delicate, a little fat, but the oil without the strong flavor seen in mackerels and sardines. It is in fact very much like that of the Skil-fish, (*Anoplopoma fimbria*), which is now being largely pushed under the name of "Sablefish" and is, by the way, both fresh and smoked a real addition to our food-supplies. This fish is in fact the nearest relative to the one now under discussion, *Erilepis zonifer,* and the two species constitute the family of Anoplomidæ.

The fish in question was first noticed in 1879, a small specimen a foot long from Monterey in the Museum of the California Academy of Sciences was described by W. N. Lockington, then a curator, as *Myriolepis zonifer.* The fish was covered with myriads of small scales, head, fins, everywhere, hence *"Myriolepis,"* and the greenish body was crossed by black cross-bars. The name *Myriolepis* had been already used for a fossil fish and Dr. Gill later substituted *Erilepis,* of similar meaning.

The fish was not seen again until 1900, when Jordan and Snyder found a huge stuffed specimen in the Imperial Museum of Tokyo. It was six feet

long, and looked like a giant bass. It was said to be rare in Japan and to be called "Aburabodzu" or "Fat-Priest." Not suspecting any relation to *Erilepis,* we called it a new genus, *Ebisus sagamius.* Later, a small example taken by Dr. Hugh M. Smith in Southern Japan suggested the resemblance to *Erilepis.*

Through the efforts of Dr. Mitsukuri, I secured later a fresh example of the Fat-Priest, which I had figured. This left no doubt of the identity of *Ebisus* with *Erilepis,* although the black bands fade with age.

Lately Mr. W. F. Thompson has obtained two or three moderate sized specimens in Alaska. These are all known to science until the species appeared on my table in Palo Alto. I find another in the market today.

It will probably be found in abundance on rocky shallows in the North Pacific. If so, it will prove one of our best food-fishes, ranking with the Halibut, and the California Sea Bass, which by the way is no bass at all, *Atractoscion nobilis,* a relative of the Eastern Weak-fish. The fishermen call the Priest-Fish "Deep-water Cod."

DAVID STARR JORDAN,
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A LIST OF REPTILES FROM JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.[1]

The following reptiles were seen or caught between four and ten miles south of Jacksonville, from August 15, 1911, to August 13, 1912:

Chelonia.

1. *Chelydra serpentina,* common in all waters.
2. *Kinosternon odoratum,* common in brooks.
3. *Kinosternon bauri,* one specimen on bank of brook.

[1] Nomenclature changed to correspond with Stejneger & Barbour, Check list, 1917.—*Ed.*

4. *Deirochelys reticulata,* several buried in leaf mould in dried-up bayou.

5. *Chrysemys picta,* numerous in a ditch near Orange Park Road.

6. *Pseudemys floridana,* large specimens seen, sunning themselves on top of spiles in Cedar Creek.

7. *Terrapene carolina,* one specimen found on the prairie.

8. *Terrapene bauri,* numerous on the prairie near bayous.

9. *Gopherus polyphemus,* very common in colonies on high ground.

10. *Trionyx ferox,* several large ones seen sunning in shallow water at edge of a pond. Many young ones taken in springs and brooks.

Sauria.

11. *Sceloporus undulatus,* numerous on pine saplings and fallen timber.

12. *Ophisaurus ventralis,* common on low grounds, inhabits crawfish holes. Comes forth evenings and after heavy rains.

13. *Cnemidophorus sexlineatus,* common along sandy roadways and on high ground near gopher turtle burrows.

14. *Anolis carolinensis,* numerous on vegetation in bayous, also on Arrowhead in creeks. Often came into the house.

15. *Plestiodon fasciatus.* Inhabits hollow trees, always near water. Blue-tailed ones often live around human habitations.

16. *Leiolopisma laterle.* Common under bark in damp situations.

Serpentes.

17. *Thamnophis sauritus.* One specimen on palmetto, in bayou.

18. *Thamnophis sackeni.* Near running water usually.

19. *Thamnophis sirtalis.* Found along margins of ditches after rain.

20. *Natrix sipedon fasciata,* common near all fresh water.

21. *Natrix s. erythrogaster,* one specimen in a bayou.

22. *Natrix cyclopion,* one specimen in ditch by the road after a heavy rain.

23. *Natrix taxispilota,* one on bank of a brook in thick jungle.

24. *Seminatrix pygaea,* one found under a log in several inches of water in a cypress swamp.

25. *Storeria dekayi,* common under bark of fallen timber near water.

26. *Potamophis striatulus,* found under strips of bark in dried-up bayou.

27. *Drymarchon corais couperi.* None taken. One very large example seen vanishing down a gopher turtle burrow.

28. *Coluber constrictor.* Commonest snake hereabouts.

29. *Coluber flagellum.* Near creeks on high ground. Largest one taken was 7 ft. 3 in.

30. *Elaphe guttata.* Several young taken from hollow trees in February. Adults under logs in prairie.

31. *Elaphe quadrivittata.* Several specimens in oak thickets on high ground.

32. *Pituophis melanoleucus.* One specimen in pine forest near a bayou.

33. *Ophcodrys aestivus.* Common in Magnolia thickets and on other bushes along creeks.

34. *Diadophis punctatus.* Common under fallen timber on banks of brooks.

35. *Lampropeltis elapsoides.* One in sweet potato field.

36. *Lampropeltis triangulum amaura.* Common, often ploughed up in the fields.

37. *Lampropeltis getulus.* Very common, along roadsides, borders of creeks and bayous.

38. *Farancia abacura.* A large example on a wagon trail after prolonged heavy rain, in May. Length, 5 ft. 6 in.

39. *Cemophora coccinea.* Several specimens in sweet potato hills.

40. *Heterodon contortrix.* Common on high ground.

41. *Heterodon c. niger.* Common, one found in our barn.

42. *Heterodon simus.* Several specimens taken in the act of swallowing toads, (*Bufo lentiginosus*), in an abandoned cemetery.

43. *Micrurus fulvius.* Quite common. Seven examples were taken on sunny days in January, on sandy knolls surrounded by swampy country. Temperature 58° F. (shade). The previous night had been 28° F., but the heat of the sun had induced these reptiles to come forth and take a sun bath.

44. *Agkistrodon piscivorus.* Common in low country near water. Many examples taken.

45. *Sistrurus miliarius.* Common on edges of bayous. Many taken.

46. *Crotalus adamanteus.* Rare near Jacksonville. First example taken May 28, 1912, near the butt of a dead cypress, on an immense heap of debris. Edge of Buckhead Bayou, 8 miles out of Jacksonville. Others taken in Cedar hummock among palmetto scrub.

RICHARD F. DECKERT,
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SOME SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REPTILE NOTES.

Coleonyx variegatus (Baird). Banded Gecko.

One taken by me July 18, 1911, and another December 4, 1913. They were found in grading land for cultivation, and were a few inches below the surface. La Puerta Valley, San Diego County, California.

Uta graciosa (Hallowell). Long-tailed Uta.

Several taken at various times in La Puerta Valley. Most of them were found on Larrea bushes (*Covillea tridentata*). Active, but not shy. By waiting until they had hid by passing around to the back side of a shrub at some place where branches were not too close and grabbing shrub and lizard about where I though the head was, I usually got them around the body.

Siagonodon humilis (Baird and Girard). Worm Snake.

July 25, 1915 I picked up a dead Worm Snake in a trail near Banner, San Diego County. It was somewhat damaged by ants. The locality is a gulch on the chapparal covered mountain side of the eastern slope of the Cuyamaca Mountains, about 15 miles northwest of the type locality (Vallecito). Some scattered oaks grew near. Altitude about 3,000 feet. Upper Sonoran Zone. The type locality is in the Lower Sonoran at about 1,600. This is the fourth record for the State.

Sonora occipitalis (Hallowell). Desert Burrowing Snake.

I found several in La Puerta Valley, mostly unearthed in grading.

Tantilla eiseni Stejneger. California Tantilla.

I found one in the fireplace of my former home at Witch Creek, San Diego County, California, Sep-

tember 27, 1897. It probably had worked its way up along the brick foundation of the fireplace during the night. Upper Sonoran Zone, altitude 2,800 feet, western slope of the Cuyamaca Mountains.

Crotalus cerastes Hallowell. Sidewinder.

I have taken three individuals in La Puerta Valley. This is the most southwestern record that I know of. La Puerta Valley is in San Diego County, on the eastern slope of the Cuyamaca Mountains, altitude 2,200. It is in the upper part of the Upper Sonoran Zone, and is six miles west of Vallecito, an old station on the old Holliday stage road, the oldest transcontinental road in California.

FRANK STEPHENS,
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I. THE PINE SNAKE IN NEW YORK.

In the note on the Pine snake, *Pituophis melanoleucus* (Daudin) in the November 26 number of COPEIA, the New York State record of this species was evidently overlooked. W. Seward Wallace in "Snakes of Rockland Co., N. Y."[2] records the finding of a dead specimen on Tallman's mountain near Nyack. This specimen is also referred to in Bull. 51, N. Y. State Museum, "Catalogue of New York Reptiles and Batrachians" by Eckel and Paulmier. Wallace also states, "These snakes are common in the more southern states of Delaware and Maryland, where they grow very large." He does not, however, give definite localities. The single N. Y. specimen does not necessarily indicate that the range of the Pine snake extends naturally as far north.

II. NOTE ON LIZARDS OF NEW YORK.

In De Kay's "Zoology of New York"—Part III "Reptiles and Amphibia," 1842, two species of

[2] Wallace, W. Seward, Snakes of Rockland Co., N. Y. 56th Annual Report, N. Y. State Museum, 1902; pp. 135-150.

lizards are recorded from New York. These are: *Plestiodon fasciatus* (Linn.); (*Scincus undulatus* Holb.), and *Sceloporus undulatus* (Latr.), *Tropedolepis undulatus* Holb.). A third species was recorded by Reed and Wright [3] from the Cayuga Lake Basin as *Lygosoma* (*Leiolopisma*) laterale (Say). While examining this specimen a few years ago, Dr. Wright called my attention to the fact that the supposed *Leiolopisma laterale* had proven to be *Plestiodon anthracinus* Baird.

In April, 1915, another specimen of *Plestiodon anthracinus* was sent to the State Museum from Fishers, Ontario Co., N. Y., by Mr. M. S. Baxter of Rochester.

Two more specimens of this species from Mr. Baxter were sent to the museum recently for examination; one from Irondequoit Bay, Monroe Co., collected May 10, 1895; and one half grown, from the Bristol Hills near Academy, Ontario Co., taken in August, 1895 or '96. It is possible that *Leiolopisma laterale* (Say) may yet be taken in New York since it has been recorded from New Jersey.

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[3] The Vertebrates of the Cayuga Lake Basin, N. Y., by Hugh D. Reed and Albert H. Wright. Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc., Vol. XLVIII, No. 193, p. 408, 1909.

Edited by J. T. Nichols, American Museum of Natural History

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